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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Statement submitted by International Council of Psychologists, American Psychological Association, Armenian International Women's Association, Associated Country Women of the World, Center for Migration Studies of New York, Child Welfare League of America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Association of Applied Psychology, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation on Ageing, International Kolping Society, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Science, International Union of Psychological Science, National Council on Family Relations, SOS Kinderdorf International, World Family Organization, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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* E/CN.5/2006/1.

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Statement

As the UN moves into its 61st year, we urge the Commission on Social Development to address the persistent plight of families living in extreme poverty. The Commission must promote action on the following goals:

1. Alleviation of hunger through the ongoing guarantee of food and water security.
2. Liveable housing and sanitation.
3. Medical and mental health services for parents and children through local clinics, hospitals, and community facilities with adequate supplies and trained staff.
4. Universal free elementary education for all children and literacy programmes for adults of all ages.
5. Employment opportunities and creation of decent jobs with relevant training.
6. Micro-credit for self-employment and small entrepreneurial ventures, especially for women.
7. Disaster relief and refugee services that encompass family reunification and support.

We state our trust in the Commission on Social Development to fulfil these urgent needs of families and to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.